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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 OTTAWA 001740

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THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM, OTTAWA 1722 DATED 18 JUN 03, ORIGINALLY SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE, INFO TO NSC, ALCAN COLLECTIVE, MEXICO, CINCNORAD, SECDEF AND USMISSION USUN IS REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION.

QUOTE:

HOMELAND SECURITY PASS TO CHRIS HORNBERGER
STATE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY ARMITAGE, NSC FOR DEPUTY
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR HADLEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/17/2013
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [MARR](#) [SMIG](#) [PARM](#) [CA](#) [KICC](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH NEW CANADIAN DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER HARDER

REF: (A) STATE 164143 (B) USUN 1525

Classified By: Ambassador Paul Cellucci,
Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

SUMMARY AND COMMENT

[1](#)1. (C) Peter Harder, Canada's new Deputy Foreign Minister, met with Ambassador Cellucci on June 17 to discuss the bilateral relationship and his June 19-20 visit to Washington. Harder and the Ambassador discussed management of the relationship, energy cooperation, missile defense, the ICC, the Trafficking in Persons report, and the Proliferation Security Initiative. Harder's appointment is part of an effort, led by Privy Council Clerk Alex Himelfarb (a close friend of Harder's), to get U.S.-Canada relations on a better footing. We expect Harder to be more pragmatic in his approach to the relationship than is usually the case at Foreign Affairs. As Deputy Minister at Industry Canada (his previous post), Harder told his staff that the biggest priority for Canada is how it can exist and prosper in "this North American space." END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

[1](#)2. (C) Harder told the Ambassador that meeting with him and visiting Washington were top priorities for his first week on the job. While in Washington June 19-20, Harder will be meeting with Deputy Secretary Armitage and Deputy National Security Advisor Hadley, among others. The Ambassador responded that while there have been strains in the bilateral relationship over Iraq, the relationship remains strong. He noted that the "Buy American" provision in the House version of the 2004 Defense Authorization Bill (ref. A) was motivated in part by some members' desire to punish Canada for its position on Iraq, but that State and Defense are opposing the provision.

[1](#)3. (C) Harder said that Foreign Affairs (DFAIT) and the Government as a whole are looking at how to better manage U.S.-Canada relations, making for more coherent policy across the many agencies involved. The Ambassador cited the GoC's proposed legislation to decriminalize marijuana as a policy initiative in one area that would have detrimental effects in another, the border. Harder agreed. He noted that greater central supervision of the bilateral relationship is also being discussed by the contenders in the Liberal Party leadership race.

[1](#)4. (C) Harder said that the GoC needed to work on its "post-NAFTA" agenda, strengthening the bilateral economic relationship and "trilateralizing" some issues to include Mexico. The private sector would need to be consulted, he said, because its support had been critical for pushing through both the bilateral Free Trade Agreement and NAFTA. Provincial Premiers and U.S. Governors should also be engaged more often on issues such as energy transmission. Harder was pleased that Canadian is increasing its diplomatic presence in the U.S., and said that Industry Canada had sacrificed 25% of its incremental budget in FY2003-2004 to help fund this expansion.

[1](#)5. (C) The Ambassador observed that the relationship between Secretary of Homeland Security Ridge and Deputy Prime

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Minister Manley was excellent, but that Manley's future was uncertain given the Liberal leadership race. Harder said that our border management cooperation needed to be institutionalized. He noted that in 1993, the Conservative government of the day had created a Department of Public

Security, which drew together many of the same functions as the U.S. has now done under Homeland Security. Harder became Deputy Minister of Public Security, but the Department was closed after only a few months because of concerns that immigration should be kept separate from law enforcement. Harder did not expect the GoC to create a new "super-department," but it was clear that stovepiping needed to be reduced.

MISSILE DEFENSE/NORAD

16. (C) On missile defense, the Ambassador welcomed the June 18 visit to Washington by a Canadian delegation to discuss potential Canadian participation. He noted that the missile defense execution mission would be at NORTHCOM, instead of NORAD, but said that Canadian participation was important to continue our longstanding cooperation in North American defense. Harder said that DFAIT and National Defense hope to be able to complete negotiations and report to Cabinet in the fall, but their understanding from DoD is that this will take longer. Harder added that Foreign Minister Graham is planning to visit NORAD August 28-29, and that he may try to join Graham for that visit. The Ambassador encouraged him to do so.

ICC/UNSC RESOLUTION 1422

17. (C) On the ICC, the Ambassador raised Canadian PermRep Heinbecker's statement opposing UNSC Resolution 1422 (ref. B), and said that Canada should be sensitive to the U.S. position. We want to continue to support peacekeeping operations, but we're a target internationally, as evidenced by the outrageous war crimes charges brought against U.S. officials in Belgium. Harder responded that Heinbecker was simply restating Canadian policy, and that DFAIT was careful to ensure that his statement did not directly criticize the U.S. He hoped that the U.S. position would change once the ICC had a track record showing that it would not allow frivolous claims.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

18. (C) On the recent Trafficking in Persons report, the Ambassador explained that Canada had been dropped from Tier 1 to Tier 2 status because of inadequate enforcement and prosecution. We hope that the anti-trafficking legislation Canada enacted in 2002 will make a difference. Harder said that Citizenship and Immigration Canada was puzzled by the lower ranking, and that our official cooperation on this issue has been excellent. The Ambassador said that one area where Canada could help would be removal of South Korea from its visa waiver program, as this is one route for sex trade victims to enter Canada.

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE

19. (C) Harder expressed his disappointment that Canada had not been invited to participate in the June 12 Madrid meeting on the Proliferation Security Initiative, given Canada's activism on non-proliferation issues and our North American security cooperation. Harder said that Defense Minister McCallum had raised this with Defense Secretary Rumsfeld at NATO, and that DFAIT Assistant Deputy Minister Wright would do so with Under Secretary Bolton.

BIO NOTE

10. (SBU) Harder is a career public servant who began at DFAIT but has served in a number of different departments. Harder, now 50, was the second youngest Canadian ever appointed as a deputy minister in 1991. According to contacts at Industry Canada, he focuses on making decisions which will serve the interests of the largest number of Canadians, and presses his staff to identify such choices. He is sharp, affable, and popular with his staff. Harder's right hand person is Pam LeBlanc, who has been with him in at least four assignments and joins him again at DFAIT. Harder is part of the inner circle of senior Canadian bureaucrats, most of whom expect he will be the next Clerk of the Privy Council, the top civil servant position in Ottawa. At DFAIT, Harder replaces Gaetan Lavertu, who has been re-assigned as Ambassador to Mexico.

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